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RADIO PROPAGANDA REPORT

REPORT ON CUBAN PROPAGANDA -- NO. 4

HAVANA'S REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA

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HAVANA'S REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICAContents

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On 23 November 1962: "Important reference works on the basic problems of the continent are being readied for publication by participants in the Latin American forum, which is working under the auspices of the House of the Americas, on under-development in Latin America, forms of imperialist exploitation, and the Alliance for Progress. The Latin American Forum has specialized personnel who are now assisting the Cuban revolution and whose research will be disseminated in printed form for the information and service of the Latin American peoples."

On 13 October 1962: Latin American organizations in Havana on Columbus Day issued a manifesto and "lashed out at false arguments presented by the colonization powers and proclaimed the Cuban revolution as the vanguard of the peoples of Latin America."

On 6 October 1962: Latin American exiles living in Cuba will meet in Havana on 11 October to form the United Front of Latin American Exiles. The event is being organized by the "Cuban Committee for the Liberation of Paraguay."

On 4 October 1962: It was announced that of the 11 countries to be represented in the Latin American games to be held in the Havana stadium, all but three groups are from countries that have broken relations with Cuba. "All in all, then, we have a right to feel optimistic when we get a full view of the relationship between the different peoples of the Latin American countries."

In a special Radio Havana program for Peru on 29 January 1963, a Peruvian in Cuba defined the inspirational benefits derived from direct exposure to the Cuban revolution:

"The Cuban revolution unites us and gives significance to our struggle. It gives us energy and faith in the future. Our debt of gratitude to Cuba is immense. We shall wage the battle against Yankee imperialism until we have torn it to shreds."

3. Sense of Urgency Since the Cuban Crisis

The Second Declaration of Havana (4 February 1962) contained the following passage:

"The duty of every revolutionary is to make revolution. In America and in the world the revolution will win. But a revolutionary must not sit in his doorway and watch the corpse of imperialism pass by. That is not a revolutionary role."

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For nearly a year this statement was virtually ignored in Cuban propaganda. The stress was on the Cuban example and the inevitability of revolution. The statement was revived and elaborated by Fidel Castro in his revolution anniversary speech on 2 January 1963, in the context of a discussion of Venezuela:

"The Venezuelan people struggled and gave extraordinary evidence of revolutionary spirit.... The imperialists were given evidence of what revolutionary solidarity is--the active solidarity of revolutionaries who do not sit in their doorways and wait for the corpse of their enemies to pass by, of revolutionaries who understand that the duty of all revolution is to recreate the revolution."

A more militant tone has characterized the propaganda generally, and Castro's speeches in particular, since the Cuban crisis. Castro's 15 January speech to the Congress of Women of the Americas, in which he called upon revolutionary organizations to "hurl the masses into battle," added up to an outspoken call for hemisphere-wide revolution. An air of impatience with the progress of revolution in Latin America was apparent in several passages of this speech and of Castro's revolution anniversary address of 2 January--a sense of urgency about the need to get on with the revolution, perhaps representing in large measure an effort to recoup some of the prestige Castro lost in the hemisphere during the October crisis. Havana media have displayed sensitivity in regard to the failure of communist and pro-Castro groups in Latin America to give effective support to Cuba during the crisis: Numerous broadcasts following the crisis sought to blame the inaction of these elements on the United States, charging that U.S. embassies were used to organize security groups to prevent sabotage and demonstrations.

The tone of impatience and urgency that marked Castro's January speeches was echoed in statements by other regime spokesmen. Juan Marinello, head of the University of Havana, spoke as follows on 28 January 1963, on the 110th birth anniversary of the Cuban revolution's "apostle," Jose Marti:

"New revolutionary tasks [are] necessary in Latin American nations. It is no exaggeration to say that we are living at a historic crossroads that revolves around the fact of the Cuban revolution.... Although it is an undeniable fact that our revolution cannot be defeated, it is also true that it will achieve its greatest importance if in its triumph it produces a notable advance in the liberation of the peoples of Latin America.... In accord with our fraternal concern and our revolutionary duty, we must ask the sister nations that are oppressed by imperialism to increase their actions in keeping with the great times in which we live. Facts have shown,

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American brothers, that imperialism, the source of our ills, does not retreat until revolutionary action forces it to retreat."

"If Cuba has been able to defeat the imperialists with its modest population and size, the Latin American peoples will also know how to defeat it. That is why we are convinced that in the immediate future the heroic, inexorable, and invincible struggle which the heroic people of Venezuela are waging today will break out throughout the length and breadth of our America.... Cubans expect that on the next Marti Day, 28 January 1964, we will salute a Latin America in invincible liberating action, in the unbreakable determination, like ours, of achieving a worthy homeland and dying a worthy death. Marti wrote: 'Let us fight in Cuba to assure, along with our independence, the independence of all America.'"

Such calls to action by Cuban leaders were buttressed by radio and television propaganda in the same vein. Thus on 8 February a radio/TV broadcast stated:

"The tension in Latin America is increasing. The latest dispatches reflect the rebellious posture evident everywhere in our America, which is mistreated, exploited, and sacrificed by the sly and brutal imperialism to the north of us that scorns us. Nineteen people have been killed in Colombia, where the government placed soldiers in the streets to act against the people. In Nicaragua the army is still attacking the demonstrators protesting against the election farce. In Paraguay the terror implanted by the bloodthirsty Stroessner increases. In Venezuela this very afternoon the liberation forces set fire to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. America is in flames!"

Publicity on the anniversary of the Second Declaration of Havana on 4 February singled out U.S. imperialism as the chief culprit hindering revolutionary progress, but also displayed impatience with the behavior of Latin America revolutionary leaders. One broadcast complained of the sluggishness and timidity of "false" opposition leaders in Latin American countries:

"This Second Declaration of Havana has had two groups of enemies--one group made up of imperialists, capitalists, and exploiters, and the other group called the pigeonholers of the Second Declaration of Havana. These pigeonholers, false opposition leaders, appear to be afraid of the message which the Declaration of Havana contains, and that message is none other than to tell

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the exploited masses of the whole continent what path is to be followed to put an end to this exploitation. That path cannot be that of sitting in the doorways of their houses to watch the corpse of imperialism pass by. That path has to be the path of rising against imperialism and against exploitation and gaining final liberation by the exploited masses through the only means indicated, the means of violent struggle against the exploiters and representatives of imperialism."

PRENSA LATINA quoted REVOLUCION as stating in an editorial on the anniversary that piecemeal reform was no longer enough. Radical revolution was the only course for Latin America:

"Every day the Yankee imperialists put forth greater efforts to patch up the Latin American economy, but as the Second Declaration of Havana proclaims, we are no longer interested in patching up in Latin America. It is necessary to remove the inefficient, brutal dress of imperialist exploitation of our people and don the new dress of Latin American revolution."*

Radio comment on the anniversary also seconded Castro's insistence in the 15 January speech on the virtual impossibility of revolutionary gains without violence. PRENSA LATINA on 10 February, in reporting a statement by the Communist Party of Chile, in effect acknowledged that this "truth was not universally accepted by revolutionary groups in the hemisphere:

"The Communist Party [of Chile] is fighting for a democratic, popular, national, anti-imperialistic, antifeudal, and anti-monopolistic revolution and for a government that has these same characteristics and is made up of the parties that contribute to its creation.... We believe that there is a chance of obtaining such a government by peaceful means, specifically through the 1964 presidential elections."

PRENSA LATINA also reported:

"The Chilean Communist Party hopes that its political opponents will not resort to crime and terrorism, thereby forcing the people to use violence. The U.S. Embassy spends millions of dollars on anticommunist propaganda. Chile to our knowledge has not put out one penny to combat the 'anti-imperialism' of the Christian Democrats."

* This passage was quoted approvingly by the Peking radio in its propaganda on the anniversary of the Second Declaration.